

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

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FM AMEMBASSY MADRID

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7124

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USEC BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

C O N F I D E N T I A L MADRID 6398

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ELAB PINT SP

SUBJECT: STATUS "CARABANCHEL TEN" OR "1001 CASE" TRIAL

REF: MADRID A-92, MAY 9, 1973

SUMMARY. INCREASING INDICATIONS ARE THAT LONG AWAITED TRIAL OF "CARABANCHEL TEN" (ALSO KNOWN AS THE "1001 CASE") MAY BE HELD IN MADRID DURING NEXT TWO MONTHS. THIS TRIAL, INVOLVING LEGENDARY COMMUNIST WORKER LEADER MARCELINO CAMACHO AND NINE OTHER DEFENDANTS WHO (EXCEPT FOR ONE) ARE REPORTEDLY MEMBERS OF SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY IS ALREADY OBJECT OF WIDE INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN PROMOTED JOINTLY BY COMMUNIST AND DEMOCRATIC PARTIES AND TRADE UNIONS THROUGHOUT EUROPE, WHICH CAMPAIGN WILL INTENSIFY

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WHEN TRIAL DATE IS FINALLY ANNOUNCED. INTERNATIONAL

CAMPAIGN HAS SPREAD TO US, WHERE A "1001 CASE" COMMITTEE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED AND WHERE PROMINENT PERSONAGES SUCH AS MARLON BRANDO AND RAMSEY CLARK ARE REPORTEDLY ACTIVE ON BEHALF OF DEFENDANTS (SPANISH OPPOSITION GROUPS HOPE TO ATTRACT THEM AND OTHERS TO TRIAL AS OBSERVERS). END SUMMARY

1. VARIOUS INDICATIONS LONG-ANTICIPATED TRIAL OF "CARABANCHEL TEN", ALSO KNOWN AS "1001 CASE", INVOLVING NINE PROMINENT WORKER COMMISSION LEADERS OF SPANISH COMMUNIST PARTY (PCE) AND ONE PRIEST WHO HAVE BEEN IN PRISON FOR PAST 16 MONTHS AWAITING TRIAL (SEE REF) MAY TAKE PLACE SOON: (1) ONE DEFENSE LAWYER TOLD LABATT TRIAL WILL PROBABLY BE HELD DURING NOVEMBER OR DECEMBER; (2) ANOTHER SAID HE EXPECTS GOS CONVOKE TRIAL DURING LAST TWO WEEKS DECEMBER WHILE PUBLIC ATTENTION DIVERTED DUE CHRISTMAS SEASON. (3) A THIRD DEFENSE LAWYER HAS HEARD TRIAL MAY COMMENCE JAN 8, 1974. (4) WORKERS COMMISSIONS SOURCE CLAIMS COMMISSIONS PREPARED MOVE INTERNATIONAL PROTEST CAMPAIGN INTO HIGH GEAR MOMENT TRIAL DATE IS ANNOUNCED ON BASIS GOS MAY CONVOKA TRIAL AS EARLY AS MID-NOVEMBER. (5) GOS SOURCE BELIEVES GOS HOPES TO GET THIS EMBARRASSING TRIAL OVER WITH PRIOR TO LATE JANUARY ILO EUROPEAN REGIONAL CONFERENCE IN GENEVA WHERE SPANISH LABOR SITUATION LIKELY TO BE RAISED.

2. UNCERTAINTY REVOLVES AROUND WHETHER GOS WILL CONVENE TRIAL SOON, WHICH IS CONSIDERED LIKELY, OR MAY CONTINUE TO DELAY IT IN HOPE LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL PROTESTS MAY EVENTUALLY SUBSIDE. THERE SOME SPECULATION GOS, TO AVOID EXPECTED INTERNATIONAL OUTCRY, MIGHT EVEN RELEASE DEFENDANTS AND DROP CHARGES UNDER A GENERAL AMNESTY, ALTHOUGH THIS APPEARS RATHER UNLIKELY.

3. INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN PROTESTING "1001 CASE" IS BEING CARRIED OUT BY BROAD COALITION THROUGHOUT EUROPE, LED BY COMMUNIST WFTU AND LOCAL COMMUNIST PARTIES AND TRADE UNIONS (E.G., ITALIAN CGIL AND FRENCH CGT), BUT ACTIVELY SUPPORTED BY MOST NON-COMMUNIST UNIONS AND POLITICAL PARTIES. MOST ACTIVE FOREIGN NON-COMMUNISTS ON BEHALF CONFIDENTIAL

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OF "CARABANCHEL TEN" HAVE BEEN BRITISH TUC AND LABOR PARTY, LED BY JACK JONES AND MICHAEL FOOT, WHO ARE ALSO REPORTEDLY PROMOTING ESTABLISHMENT OF PROPAGANDA-TYPE "INTERNATIONAL TRIBUNAL" IN LONDON AGAINST "REPRESSION IN SPAIN" WITH EMPHASIS ON "1001 CASE" AND WHICH MIGHT EVEN BE HELD SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH TRIAL OR ALTERNATIVELY NEXT SPRING. THE PCE-DOMINATED SPANISH WORKERS COMMISSIONS ARE PRIME COORDINATORS OF INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN BY MEANS

OF THEIR PARIS OFFICE AS WELL AS OF CAMPAIGN INSIDE SPAIN WHERE THEY HAVE SECURED SUPPORT OF MUCH OF NON-COMMUNIST LEFT AND MODERATE CENTER (E.G. CHRISTIAN DEMOCRAT JOAQUIN RUIZ GIMENEZ WILL DEFEND MARCELINO CAMACHO, MOST PROMINENT OF "CARABANCHEL TEN", AT TRIAL AND CATHOLIC LEADER JOSE MARIA GIL ROBLES WILL DEFEND THE PRIEST, FATHER GARCIA-SALVE).

4. MANY FOREIGN OBSERVERS ARE EXPECTED TO SEEK TO ATTEND TRIAL WHEN IT TAKES PLACE, INCLUDING REPS OF ICFTU, WCL, ILO, AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL, BRITISH LABOR PARTY AND TUC, WEST GERMAN DGB AND SPD, AND EVEN POSSIBLY OF WFTU.

5. INTERNATIONAL PROTEST CAMPAIGN HAS ALSO REPORTEDLY SPREAD TO UNITED STATES. ONE DEFENSE LAWYER STATED THAT ACTIVE US SUPPORTERS OF PROTEST INCLUDE ACTOR MARLON BRANDO WHO HE CLAIMED MIGHT POSSIBLY COME TO SPAIN TO ATTEND TRIAL AS AN OBSERVER. ANOTHER SOURCE, WHO IS A MEMBER OF PCE-CONTROLLED WORKERS COMMISSIONS, TOLD LABATT THAT COMMISSIONS HAVE HOPES OF ATTRACTING TO MADRID HIGH-LEVEL ACTIVE US SYMPATHIZERS INCLUDING FORMER ATTORNEY GENERAL RAMSEY CLARK, WHO IS A KEY MEMBER OF A US COMMITTEE SET UP TO PUBLICIZE "1001 CASE". MEANWHILE, WORKERS COMMISSIONS FLYER ALLEGES THAT US COMMITTEE HAS BEEN PROMISED SUPPORT BY MISCELLANEOUS PROMINENT AMERICAN PERSONAGES AMONG WHICH PAMPHLET CITES GEORGE MCGOVERN, ARTHUR MILLER AND ANGELA DAVIS.

6. COMMENT: WHILE EMBASSY IS UNABLE TO JUDGE VERACITY OF WORKERS COMMISSIONS CLAIMS OF SUPPORT FROM PROMINENT US POLITICAL AND ARTISTIC PERSONALITIES, IT DOES APPEAR THAT COMMUNIST-INSPIRED, CAREFULLY PREPARED, AND WIDELY SUPPORTED INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST GOS ON "1001 CONFIDENTIAL

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CASE" IS READY TO GO INTO HIGH GEAR ONCE DATE FOR TRIAL IS ANNOUNCED, WHICH MAY OCCUR DURING NEXT TWO MONTHS. IN ADDITION TO INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE CAMPAIGN AND PUBLICITY, WORKERS COMMISSIONS AND COOPERATING NON-COMMUNIST POLITICAL GROUPS ALSO HOPE TO FOMENT STRIKES AND OTHER ACTIONS AT TIME OF TRIAL, AND THEIR ULTIMATE AIM IS TO SEEK TO MAKE OF "CARABANCHEL TEN" CASE A SECOND BURGOS TRIAL. (HOWEVER, SOME OF ESSENTIAL DRAMATIC INGREDIENTS OF BURGOS TRIAL, I.E., DEATH SENTENCES, MILITARY COURT-MARTIAL, AND BASQUE SEPARATISM, ARE LACKING IN THIS CASE.)
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